

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 35 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-45 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, and 35 have been amended to clarify the description of the claimed subject matter. Claims 3-5 have been amended to correct typographical errors and to ensure proper antecedent basis for all claim terms.

The specification is amended to correct a typographical error in priority claim in the original application and to update the status of related applications. Please note that the error in the priority claim was previously corrected in a Supplemental Application Data Sheet filed June 14, 2006.

Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel

Claims and have been amended, and claims have been canceled, notwithstanding the belief that these claims were allowable. Except as specifically admitted below, no claim elements have been narrowed. Rather, cosmetic amendments have been made to the claims and to broaden them in view of the cited art. Claims 1-5 and 35 have been amended solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process, and the amendments were not necessary for patentability.

Any reference herein to “the invention” is intended to refer to the specific claim or claims being addressed herein. The claims of this application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this application, except for arguments specifically directed to the claim.

Conclusion

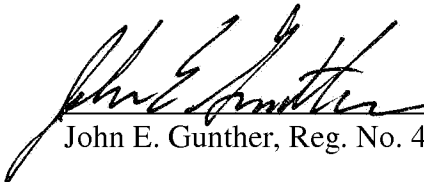
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Consideration and examination are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited.

Appl. No. 10/646,983
Preliminary Amdt. Dated 3/10/2009

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned registered practitioner to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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